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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
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9-20 March 2015
Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 68/1, on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/6 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly introduced changes that have implications for the subsidiary bodies of the Council. Among other provisions in the resolution, the Assembly described the substantive leadership that the Council would provide to the United Nations system through the adoption of an annual theme and the staggering of the segments of the Council throughout the year, beginning in 2014. With the adoption of the resolution, the Assembly created opportunities and expectations for the subsidiary bodies to advance their own work in the context of the wider process of strengthening the Council. The present note summarizes the recent work of the Commission on the Status of Women that is of relevance to the work of the Council in 2015.

2. The 2015 theme of the Council, "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take", will be considered by the Council throughout its 2015 session, which will culminate in a high-level segment to be held in July 2015. Under the auspices of the Council, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will address aspects of the transition through its aligned theme "Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the High-level Political Forum after 2015". The integration segment of the Council will focus on the theme "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all".

3. At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission adopted, its priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls" (see E/2014/27). The topic is directly aligned with the 2015 annual theme of the Council and can serve as an input to Council deliberations. In its agreed conclusions on the priority theme, the Commission included references to existing commitments; assessments of the situation of women and girls with regard to each of the Millennium Development Goals; critical issues related to gender

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equality and the empowerment of women that were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals; and factors that have held back the achievement of the Goals for women and girls. The Commission urges all stakeholders to take action in the following five areas:

(a) Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights;

(b) Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Strengthening the evidence base for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(e) Ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability.

4. With respect to the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework.

5. The analysis and recommendations of the Commission on the priority theme can strengthen Council deliberations in a catalytic manner and support the integration of gender perspectives. The reports of the Secretary-General on the priority theme of the Commission (E/CN.6-2014/3 and E/CN.6/2014/4) could also contribute to the deliberations of the Council.